interception of messages under certain circumstances.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Curbing of expenditure on technology

@4470. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plans of curbing recurring expenditure on technology transfer;

(b) what measures are being contemplated to ensure that technology transfer payments are kept to the bare minimum; and

(c) whether his Ministry are aware that technology transfer payments can be substantially reduced by insisting on transfer of technology via capital equipment supply?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c) The import of technology is basically governed by the Technology Policy Statement of the Government. Import of technology is allowed selectively and only after the evaluation and scrutiny. It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to keep payments for import of technology, including technology via capital equipment supply, to the minimum and steps are taken to strengthen indigenous technology base thereby reducing dependence on foreign technology.

Interim relief for the Master Craftsmen of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ranchi

4471. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum signed by about one thousand Master Craftsmen of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi has been received by Government;

(b) whether they have demanded for the payment of interim relief as is paid to the Chargemen of HEC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ranchi of the Patna High Court has observed that Master Craftsmen and Chargemen are equal in all respects;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not paying interim relief to the Master Craftsmen; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to pay interim relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Payment of Interim Relief to Public Sector Units

4472. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had sanctioned interim relief to the employees of the public sector

@Previously Unstarred Question 3903, trnasferred from the 30th August, 1988.